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To: [E-OHPSCA2713.EBSA](#)
Subject: Funding for pre-natal care and contraception is the right thing to do!
Date: Friday, August 26, 2011 10:54:04 AM

To the Department of Health and Human Services:

I join with the American Association of University Women (AAUW) in asking you to accept the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine as pertain to coverage of preventive care under the new health care law, and to reject any exemptions for "religious employers." These preventive services are a critical element of the new law and would provide countless women better access to necessary health care.

While AAUW believes that "religious refusal" exemptions unjustly deny women access to contraceptive services, others, driven by an ideological distaste for all contraceptive services, are pushing the government to make exemptions even larger. Indeed, some groups are pushing for the exemption to apply to religiously-run health providers, so Catholic hospitals would be exempt from the coverage requirement, even though they employ people of all faiths and ideologies. If granted, this larger exemption would deny access to thousands of women just because of where they work.

I urge you to ensure women have access to quality preventive care by accepting IOM's recommendations, but NOT rejecting the proposed religious refusal exemption provisions. There are choices of hospitals and health care options. I support the religious rights of those opposed to contraception.

"An ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure!" We'll save money in the long run by providing free pre-natal care to enhance the health of mother and child, free contraception will be the best way to decrease the abomination and pain of abortion.
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